

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

Saturday, January 12, 2013, 9:30 a.m.

San Diego County Veterans Service Office

5560 Overland Ave. Ste 310, San Diego, CA 92123

Meeting Held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chip Dykes; Terry Jensen; Nancy Owen; Ben Dillingham III; John Weaver; Mary Beth Newton

MEMBERS ABSENT

Tom Splitgerber; Laurie Martell; Will Rodriguez; Justin Singer

OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Arends; Jack Harkins; Luis Monteagudo, representative from the Office of County Supervisor Greg Cox; Jason Moore, representative from the office of Congressman John Vargas

1. Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions/Public Input (3 minutes)
Members and Public introduced themselves.

4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting
Approved

5. Chairman's Remarks

6. Committee Reports (Limited to 5 Minutes)

- **Legislative (Attachment A)**

Discussed what is going on with the Fiscal Cliff and what our elected officials in DC are going to do about the nation's budget deficit and debt ceiling and the concern on the local impact in San Diego County with possible termination of existing contracts.

If Sequestration occurs in March 2013, SDMAC estimated cuts could affect over 30,000 jobs in our region.

Scott Peters (D. 52nd, San Diego) was selected by the new 113th Congress to join the House Armed Services Committee. He has not selected a member of his staff to serve as a military liaison person as of yet.

Juan Vargas (D, 51st, Chula Vista) will be joining the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Jason Moore is his veteran liaison and he will be attending VAC meeting on his behalf.

State Governor Brown announced his New Fiscal Year budget starting on July 1st. Steve was a party to a conference call with Cal Vet Secretary Peter Gravett as he explained the State is going to be hiring full time employees for Fresno and Redding's veterans' homes. The VA is not going to get 2/3 of the construction cost of those 2

veterans' homes back from the State because the government intends to open those homes with paid staff by the fall of this year, assuming the governor's budget gets approved by the assembly and the state senate sometime between now and then.

Rocky Chaves is now the vice chair of the Assembly of Veterans Affairs Committee.

Refer to the legislative report on information on the bills the governor signed into law last year and went into effect the 1st of January 2013.

Rocky Chaves already introduced AB-13 bill to give exceptions to military veterans for non-resident out of state tuition fees in California State Universities, UC's and Community Colleges.

Steve recommended the selection of someone to handle the legislative updates for the members and everybody else involved to keep information on issues that could affect military families.

Chip wants that each representative from each of the districts bring input from their own local elected representatives instead of one person collecting it. Chip will get with Tom about sending something out directly to the elected officials requesting their input.

Supervisor Greg Cox joined the VAC meeting. He had a couple of announcements. Advised as of Tuesday January 15, 2013, he is Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Also, Feb 13 at 6:30 pm he will be doing the State of The County Address on board of the midway. Military concerns will be addressed. To RSVP call 619-351-5003. There will be complementary parking for guests. (See flyer enclosed)

Supervisor Greg Cox acknowledged and thanked Mary Beth Newton for accepting and representing District 1.

Supervisor Cox was there to present Steve Arends with a Proclamation and to thank him for his military service and for his participation and commitment to serve the needs of the Veterans in San Diego County. He declared today January 12, 2013 to be Steve Arends day throughout San Diego County.

- One VA
Next One VA meeting on Wednesday 16th of January over VA Regional Office Mission Valley, 4th floor conference room, 9:30 am. There is going to be 2 presentations by VA Healthcare to update on topics and changes affecting veterans.
- Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)
With the Governor's new budget and new employees being hired for the new veterans' homes, Steve sent an email to Deputy JP Tremblay for follow up on adding residents in the Chula Vista Veterans Home depending on addition of staff and budget. Right now the limit is 305 but there is a capacity of 400 and there is a long waiting list. He is waiting for an answer. This will be discussed at the next One VA meeting.

Veterans Home Support foundation is going to have the 11th Annual Golf Classic event on Tuesday May 2, 2013, at the Eastlake Country Club (See flyer enclosed).

On January 21st, 8:00 am the American Legion Post 434 in conjunction with the Martin Luther King holiday Community Service hosted a National Day of Service at the veterans

home in Chula Vista. Volunteers were needed do some repairs on the campus, easy manual labor like painting curbs, fences etc. (See flyer attached).

- United Veterans Council (UVC)

Jack updated UVC begins 2013 general sessions on the 26 of January, 9:30 am main hall of the museum. Review of highlights of the veteran's 2012 year from different veteran's organization that provided the information. Emphasis and focus on reports presented by participating elected officials and their representatives will be in the first part of the meetings. Those who are not there at the start of the meetings will miss these reports.

- Veterans Day Parade

John updated there will be a parade this year and they are already working on venue. Good comments on the last parade and good suggestions that encouraged to keep going. Not theme decided yet.

Ben asked how much does it take to make the parade happen, Jack advised depends on the nature and texture of the parade but it is close to \$100,000.

- Veterans Coalition (SDVC)

Next meeting on February 1, 2013.

- County Veterans Service Office (CVSO)

Steve updated veteran's license plates, original and renewals, went up significantly on the 1st of January, 2013. About \$20 for originals and \$10 for renewals.

- Community Reports

Nancy announced the Navy Hospital will celebrate 25 years of being open on the 23rd of January.

Jason Moore from Congressman Juan Vargas updated on his assignments. He handles Arms Services Homeland Security as well as Police and First Responders, Intelligence Judiciary and Veterans and Military Affairs. He is the military liaison for congressional 51st district. No update on Sequestration. Their office is located on Bob Filner's old office. His phone number is 619 422 5963.

Mary Beth is looking forward to serve as a member of VAC and on making a difference for Veterans in the San Diego County.

Jack wished everyone a happy New Year.

Ben noted an article on the paper today on the first woman Marine General passed away January 2nd. Also saluted the Marine Corps on taking action to include the spouses of gay military members in their spouses clubs.

Chip advised on District 5, Tom Garcia is Rocky Chavez representative.

Terry thanked Ben for continuing the Ginger Bread man tradition.

Chip wants to rotate the meetings around the different districts. Will be put in the

Agenda but next meeting will be at the museum.

7. Unfinished Business
None

8. New Business

Chip mentioned taking issues is important to be relevant. If there is an issue out there that needs attention, bring it up.

Terry mentioned a project done on prior years on a letter sent out to all 18 cities in San Diego to survey their hiring practices for veterans, about half of them responded. He thinks a follow up regarding this will be a good idea. Chip wants members that were involved in this project to bring a letter to the next meeting for review and to discuss modifications before proceeding and possibly have something completed by March.

9. Closing Remarks

Chip expressed thanks to Steve Arends for his years of service and dedication helping veterans and also to Supervisor Cox for attending.

10. Adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Federal Legislation

- **"Fiscal Cliff," Debt Ceiling, & Sequestration.** During the presidential debate on 10/22/12 President Obama said that "sequestration won't happen," but by law, sequestration was to begin on January 2, 2013. On 1/2/13 the lame duck 112th Congress and White House reached an agreement on tax hikes, a continuing resolution for funding the federal government until March 2013, and delayed the planned \$487 billion sequestration cut over the next 10 years of the DoD budget. Sequestration will occur in March 2013, and \$1.2 trillion must be cut over 10 years, as part of the sequestration act, with DoD absorbing half of the cuts in discretionary spending. Legislators and the President could agree to again delay the sequestration start within the next 50 days, though. On 1/10/13 the SECDEF and JCS Chairman had a news conference at the Pentagon during which they explained that the DoD expects sequestration to occur, and not be cancelled. That said, they expect DoD to have to absorb a 9% overall funding cut this fiscal year, although by March the first \$450-500B in additional cuts for FY-2013 would have to be done in just 6 months. This is on top of the approximately \$500B cut the DoD has already had to endure as a result of last year's Budget Control Act. The SECDEF is considering unpaid furloughs of DoD civilian employees, saying his department must begin "prudent measures" in all the armed forces now, curtailing maintenance, initiating a hiring freeze, and delay contracting. They said that the "fiscal uncertainty is a threat to our national security" during the news conference on 1/10/13. They urged the Congress and White House to finally pass and approve a DoD appropriation bill for this fiscal year, and avoid the devastating sequestration cuts. Impact on our County is yet to be determined, but SDMAC estimates that the sequestration cuts could affect over 30,000 jobs in our region.
- Rep Scott Peters (D, 52nd, San Diego) was selected by the new 113th Congress to join the House Armed Services Committee. He joins Rep Susan Davis and Rep Duncan D. Hunter from our County on this HASC. He and the other new members of the U.S. House were sworn into office on 1/3/13. Rep Peters had an informal "meet and greet" with local veteran leaders in Kearny Mesa on 1/11/13. He has not, as yet, hired a member of his staff to serve as liaison with the local veteran community. And the District #52 office is not open yet.
- Rep Juan Vargas (D, 51st, Chula Vista) also took office on 1/3/13, and will be joining the House Foreign Affairs Committee. His local District #51 office is open on F Street in Chula Vista, and is the same office building where his predecessor, Rep Bob Filner, had his district office. He's hired Jason Moore as his veteran liaison person, and he'll be attending local VAC, One VA, and UVC meetings on behalf of Rep Vargas. District #51 office phone number is to be (619) 422-5963 when the phones are connected this week.
- Gavin Deeb has replaced Ricardo Flores as Rep Susan Davis' (D, 53rd, San Diego) veterans liaison person. Both Gavin and Ricardo attended the last One VA meeting in late December. Ricardo is now the Chief of Staff to San Diego City Councilwoman Marti Emerald for District #9.
- San Diego County Republican Party Executive Director, Barrett Tetlow, has become new San Diego City Councilman Scott Sherman's chief of staff for District #7. Barrett previously served on the staff of former Assemblywoman Shirley Horton (R, 78th). Councilman Sherman's new veterans rep is Tommy Knepper, who's an Army Reserve lieutenant.
- The FY-2013 Defense Authorization Act that was approved by Congress on 12/21/12 (authorization, not appropriations) includes legislation to create a "Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission" to change the current DoD retirement system. The Act drops any requirement for a congressional vote, let alone under BRAC-style rules, according to MOAA. This Authorization Act also returns the "Troops To Teachers" program to DoD from the Education Dept. Since 1992 this program has helped place about 12,000 veterans in classrooms nationwide. The new program would pay a stipend of up to \$5K, according to the Navy Times, to help cover the cost of getting a teaching credential, plus a signing bonus of up to \$10K for becoming a full-time teacher. Funding for the revised "Troops To Teacher" program would, of course, have to be appropriated by Congress, which is yet to occur for FY-2013.
- Former U.S. Senator Chuck Hagel (R, Nebraska) was nominated by President Obama on 1/7/13 to replace retiring SECDEF Leon Panetta at the Pentagon. U.S. Senate confirmation is required for this appointment. Senator Hagel served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam, and was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries in combat.
- **HR-32.** The first session of the new 113th Congress begun last week introduced the new "Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act" to address the SBP offset to DIC payments. This effort began over 12 years ago, and is called the "widow's tax." Rep Susan Davis (D, 53rd, San Diego) is among the 19 co-sponsors for South Carolina congressman Joe Wilson's HR-32 legislation. To date, Rep Davis is the only co-sponsor among the 53

Steve Arends' Legislative Report For San Diego County VAC Meeting 01/12/13

- members of the U.S. House from CA. The HASC now has HR-32 for action, as of 1/3/13. This legislation affects over 55,000 military widows, and would finally repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan to offset the receipt of survivors' Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.
- VFW changed its web site (blog) to track veterans' legislative efforts. It is no longer: <http://www.vfwonthehill.org/> Last month the blog changed to <http://theVFW.blogspot.com>.
- To track both U.S. House and U.S. Senate bills, go to: <http://Thomas.loc.gov>. At the center top of the web page, got to the "Legislation In Current Congress" box and simply type in the bill number or key word.

State Bills

- During the last two-year session of the California legislature just ended, a total of 165 bills and resolutions were introduced which dealt with veteran or military issues. 78 of those bills were signed into law by the Governor. Among those 78 are **AB-1550** which went into effect on 1/1/13 to raise fees for specialized veterans license plates by \$20 for the initial plate and a \$10 hike in the renewal fee. Proceeds go directly to CVSO's statewide to better serve our state's veterans. **AB-342** became effective 1/1/13 to allow veterans to have criminal convictions erased after completing court-ordered counseling for specified crimes, e.g. drug abuse. **AB-2478** went into effect on 1/1/13 to allow vets to get a 1 year exemption from paying higher non-resident community college fees. And **SB-661** that became effective 1/1/13 requires protesters at military funerals to stay at least 300 feet away from the funeral site from 1 hour before and 1 hour after the ceremony.
- Assemblyman Nathan Fletcher's (I, 75th, San Diego) **AB-1088** from 2010 established the "**California Veterans Home Fund**." In 2011, **19,001** California taxpayers donated **\$211,089** from their state income tax refunds to this new Fund to help the residents at our six California Veterans Homes. Taxpayers donated **\$208,743 in Jan-Nov 2012**. We had to hit a threshold of **\$250K** for the new tax year by the end of December 2012 in order for this Fund to remain on next year's state income tax forms. Assuming the \$250K threshold wasn't reached by 12/31/12, this Fund will be replaced on the 2012 California Income Tax Form 540 that all taxpayers must file in 2013. The state Franchise Tax Board has not yet posted the totals yet for December 2012.
- On 1/10/13 I participated in a stakeholders' conference call with CALVET Secretary Peter Gravett to discuss Governor Brown's proposed 2013-14 budget and its impact on California veterans. Gov Brown released his \$97.6B California general fund budget for the new fiscal year beginning 7/1/13. The budget is 5% over current year funding, which is anticipating a deficit, despite the new taxes approved by voters in Nov 2012. His proposed CALVET budget for 2013-14 is a 25% increase over the estimated expenditures for the current fiscal year. The major part of this increase is the cost of opening the two new Veterans Homes in Fresno and Redding. There's \$27M in the budget to do that, fully funding the 400 new state employees to be added at the Fresno Veterans Home, which was built to house 300 veterans. These two new Homes are expected to be opened by autumn 2013, assuming the Governor's budget is approved by the state legislature. Additional funding is anticipated to increase the number of veterans served at the other state Veterans Homes, including the new Home in West LA.
- ASM Al Muratsuchi (D, 66th, Torrance) was named the Chair of the Assembly's VA Committee. Vice chair of this important committee is ASM Rocky Chavez (R, 76th, Oceanside) (Retired USMC COL). ASM Toni Atkins (D, 78th, San Diego) continues to serve on this committee. Past member and chair of this committee, ASM Mary Salas, took office this month rejoining the Chula Vista City Council.
- Senator Lou Correa (D, 34th, Santa Ana) will continue as chair of the Senate's VA Committee. Senator Marty Block (D, 39th, San Diego) will also be serving on this Senate VA Committee.
- Legislature has until 2/22/13 to introduce bills for the new session begun this month. ASM Rocky Chavez (past Acting CALVET/CDVA Secretary) has already introduced **AB-13** to give non-resident tuition exemption to military veterans. Existing law exempts a student who was a member of the military stationed in CA on active duty for more than 1 year prior to being discharged from paying the higher non-resident tuition at state universities and colleges. **AB-13** would eliminate this requirement that a student be stationed in CA to receive that exemption, and would require the student to be discharged immediately prior year in order to receive the exemption. This bill is supported by the VFW and all the major VSO's in CA.
- To obtain updates on all California legislation, go to: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.

"B"

Commander@LegionPost434.org <javascript:return>

Phone: (619) 422-9309

"City of Chula Vista's Veteran of the Year 2011 - 2013"

"San Diego County Veteran of the Year 2012-2013"

Martin Luther King Day/National Day of Service Community Service Event!



AMERICAN LEGION POST 434

☆☆OPEN INVITATION☆☆

VETERANS HOME SUPPORT PROJECT



Martin Luther King holiday Community Service Event in support of the National Day of Service. The President's Inauguration Committee within our local California area has partnered up with American Legion Post 434 in Chula Vista, CA to host this event:

JANUARY 21ST, 2013 8:00am to (approx. 3:00pm)

TASKS: Painting curbs, painting and helping restore fencing, and assorted minor maintenance. *No one would get tasked with anything they are not capable of doing or that which they do not desire. Work assignments will be assigned that morning. All the tools necessary to complete the tasks will be provided.*

Veterans Home of Chula Vista, 700 East Naples, Chula Vista

VOLUNTEER REQUIREMENTS: NONE. Whether a post member, a veteran or any supporting community member! No eligibility criteria for volunteering other than a desire to help! Helpful factors are to be able to paint, conduct minor manual labor, etc. Lunch will be provided as well as water and snacks. Plus, we try to make it fun as well as productive!

CONTACT: Post Commander Tony Stewart (619) 422-9309 (Leave name & phone number) Commander@LegionPost434.org

EITHER STOP BY POST 434 (47 5TH AVENUE, CHULA VISTA) TO SIGN-UP OR CONTACT POST COMMANDER!
(Volunteer coordination is being conducted by Chula Vista Post 434 as Sponsoring Organization)

COME JOIN US IN SERVICE FOR VETERANS!!



Chula Vista Veterans Home Annual Golf Classic

Presented by:

Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation

Thursday, May 2, 2013

Eastlake Country Club

2375 Clubhouse Dr. Chula Vista, 91915

Come support the residents of Veterans Home of Chula Vista and enjoy a day of golf with your friends,
Wounded Warriors, active duty and military veterans

Registration begins at 11:00 am; practice tee will be open, box lunch and carts included.

Shotgun start at 12:00.

Complimentary BBQ dinner to help you enjoy the awards ceremony and auction.

Prizes include a 2013 automobile to the first player to make a "hole-in-one"

Thank you North Island Credit Union, McCune Chrysler Jeep Dodge, and
Sutherland Family



Sutherland Family

Please mail this registration form with your check payable to:

The Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation or (CVVHSF)
2013 Golf Tournament -700 East Naples Court Chula Vista, CA 91910

Sponsorships on the backside

The Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation is an IRS 501(c) 3 ID 93-1213658

	Patriotic Sponsorship (One foursome and hole signage)	\$700.00
	Foursome Sponsorship (Four players)	\$600.00
	Hole Sponsorship 	\$150.00
	Individual Entries 	\$150.00
	Cart Sponsorship 	\$1,000.00
	Dinner Sponsorship 	\$1,000.00
	Lunchbox Sponsorship 	\$500.00

PLAYER NAMES



1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____



Thank you for your support!

For more information contact: Dee Diaz (619) 205-1410 or
email Dorothy.Diaz@calvet.ca.gov

The Chula Vista Veterans Home Support Foundation is an IRS 501(c) 3 ID 93-1213658



Chairman Greg Cox

and the
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
cordially invite you to the annual

State of the County Address

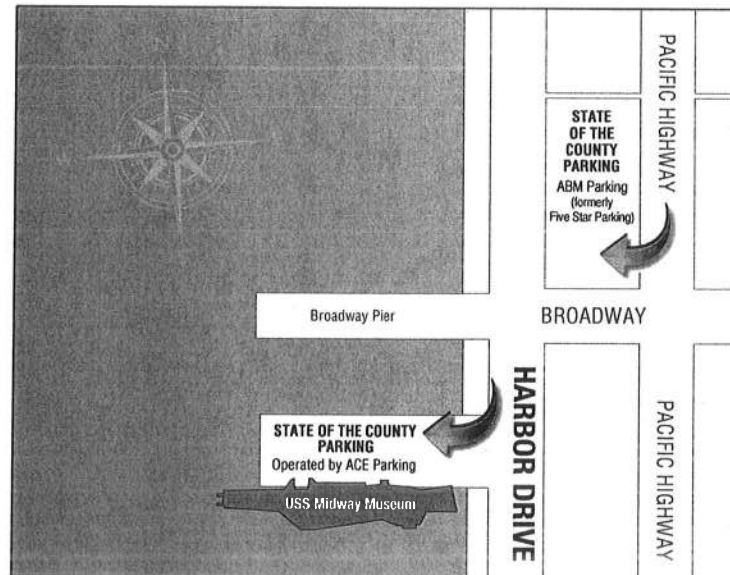
Wednesday, February 13, 2013
6:30 p.m.

USS Midway
910 N. Harbor Dr.
San Diego, CA 92101

To R.S.V.P, please call (619) 531-5003

Reception immediately following

Complimentary parking for guests available at
ACE Parking lot next to USS Midway and at ABM Parking lot
(formerly Five Star Parking). See enclosed map for directions.



Parking for the 2013 State of the County Address

ABM Parking:

Lane Field ABM Parking lot (formerly Five Star Parking) is located at Pacific Highway and Broadway.

ACE Parking:

Due to road construction on Harbor Drive, access is available only from southbound Harbor Drive.

*Complimentary parking for guests provided courtesy of
ABM Parking and ACE Parking.*